

# LARRY LEIBOWITZ CELEBRATES 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Lawrence Paul Leibowitz, a longtime resident of the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, on his 50th birthday. Larry Leibowitz celebrates this joyous occasion surrounded by his loving family and friends.

Mr. Leibowitz was born in 1946 in Knoxville, TN and has lived there his entire life. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and is also a graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School. Larry proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 7 years. He married Kay Shamitz, has three children, and is blessed with the addition of his first granddaughter, Rebecca Asher.

Larry has been a close personal friend of mine for over 20 years. The very first major jury trial that I tried as a young lawyer in criminal court in Knoxville was done with Larry as my cocounsel and mentor.

I tried other cases over the years with Larry, and he tried many important cases in my court after I became judge, including one very difficult death penalty murder case in which he saved a young man from the electric chair. I have learned very much over the years from Larry Leibowitz, and I think that he is one of the finest men I know.

Larry Leibowitz is also a leader in the Knoxville Jewish community and has served as the vice president and chairman of the board of Heska Amuna Synagogue. In addition, he has served as the vice president of the Knoxville Jewish Community Center. Larry is active in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Jewish Federation of Knoxville.

Mr. Leibowitz is a member of the Master's Lodge 242 in Knoxville and is a 32d degree KCCH of Scottish Rite. He currently serves as counsel for the Knoxville Bar Association and is involved with the Knoxville Museum of Art and the East Tennessee Opera Guild. Politically active for many years, Larry chairs the 46th ward in Knoxville. Larry was recently appointed by Governor Sundquist to the Tennessee-Israel Friendship Subcommittee on Economic Development.

As you can see, Lawrence Paul Leibowitz leads an active life and contributes much of his time to his family and community. Mr. Speaker, today, it gives me great pleasure to honor my friend who has served his community so well. I wish him many more happy and healthy years to come. Happy birthday, Larry.

## TRIBUTE TO STOKELY CARMICHAEL

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a civil rights icon, Stokely Carmichael—also known as Kwame Ture. I had the pleasure of developing a close personal relationship with

Stokely during the civil rights movement and have for years admired his strength and fortitude. He is a national hero who might have antagonized whites but rallied blacks when a large dose of both was badly needed. His powerful words unified blacks and helped to instill pride in our race.

Although Stokely is now battling cancer, he has not retired from the battle. He continues to be an active and forceful voice in the eternal struggle for civil rights and equality. I submit his story as recorded by columnist Lee Payne in a commentary entitled "Ready for the Revolution" in the March 21, 1996, edition of the St. Louis American. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing Stokely well.

### READY FOR THE REVOLUTION

With the familiar flame burning in his dark eyes, Stokely Carmichael still holds forth in the mellifluous voice that once put dread in white America and high resolve in black youth.

His old comrades are trekking to a Harlem apartment more to console him than to reminisce. "Now that I have cancer, I get to see friends I haven't seen in years," he said Thursday with an impervious smile. Under the eyes of his doctor and his mother, he is coping with prostate cancer, gathering strength to head off next month to Cuba and then back home to Guinea, where years ago President Sekou Toure renamed him Kwame Ture.

As Stokely Carmichael, he was the most eloquent and incendiary of the street speakers of the civil rights movement. As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he helped wage a dangerous struggle to get Negroes the vote in the Black Belt states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. At the end of a speech in May 1966, he issued a clarion call for black liberation with a phrase explosive for the times: "Black power!"

These two simple words rocked the foundation of race relations in the republic. Carmichael didn't invent "black power" Richard Wright in 1954 had written a book by that title and Harlem's Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, with some justification, later claimed that he coined the expression a generation earlier.

Carmichael had polished the phrase among black focus groups before springing it on the media. "It's time we stand up and take over," Carmichael warned both older Negro leaders and the whites he decided as "honkies." "Move on over or we'll move on over you."

"Dr. (Martin Luther) King told me that he wouldn't use the term. He even tried to get me to use 'black consciousness,' which came out later in South Africa." But, adds Carmichael, "he never denounced it."

An unyielding J. Edgar Hoover unleashed the monstrous powers of the state against the proponents of black power, using the FBI's counter intelligence program, known as COINTELPRO.

Carmichael, along with H. Rap Brown and countless other civil rights participants, was jailed and beaten dozens of times. In one of his closer brushes with death, the sheriff of Liberty, Miss., held a pistol to Carmichael's head. "The enraged old man was shaking the gun, shaking, shaking. I was thinking that he might shoot me by accident, so I'd decided to go for the gun." But Carmichael hesitated, and the incident was defused without violence. "I've forgotten the sheriff's name," he said. "So many of them have whipped on my head that I can't remember their names."

After King's assassination in 1968, Carmichael, with Hoover's COINTELPRO work-

ing full-blast, moved to Guinea. There, Kwame Nkrumah, the deposed as president of Ghana, invited him to help organize the Pan-African movement.

Ture, who considers himself a "Pan-Africanist revolutionary," acknowledges that the civil rights struggle won the black vote in the South, which led to the proliferation of black elected officials. However, he admits to no fundamental change in American racism.

"Racism is a question of power," he said. "If I sit next to a white man on a bus and he doesn't like it, that's his problem. If he has the power to remove me, that's my problem. You have to have (state) power to impose racism. Since whites still have the power (and) we don't have the power, nothing has changed. There's some little cosmetic changes: 'Let them have a mayor here, a mayor there; let them have whatever (rank) in the army to confuse them.'"

"There are some changes in attitude, but racism is not a question of attitude. It's a question of power."

At the end of our chat, a hoarse Ture limped painfully to the door and uttered his patented greeting and salutation: "Ready for the revolution."

## INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I have frequently urged my colleagues to address the widening income gap in America. Today, this House had an opportunity to do just that by increasing the minimum wage. Unfortunately, the majority continued its pattern of ignoring the plight of working American families by rejecting even a vote on such an increase, which would have raised the wages of over 12 million working Americans.

The facts in favor of raising the minimum wage are overwhelming. Over 4 million American workers earn at or below the minimum wage, which provides an annual income of only \$8,840. This amount is well below the poverty line for a family of four, and it does not even support a family of two above the poverty line. In fact, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that one in five minimum wage workers live in poverty. The buying power of the minimum wage has dropped by 27 percent since its average in the 1970's, and is now at its second lowest in four decades.

My Republican colleagues have paid a great deal of lip service to the value of work and to getting people off Government support. One might think that they would embrace efforts to help working Americans support themselves. A higher minimum wage enables workers, most of whom are adults, to support themselves without turning to Government. Today, however, the majority flatly rejected a higher minimum wage.

The Republican majority speaks often of putting more dollars in Americans' pockets. One might think that instead of advocating tax cuts that benefit our Nation's most affluent, they would support a higher minimum wage, which gives working Americans more money every month for groceries, health insurance, heating bills, bus fare, and rent. Today, however, they not only rejected an increased minimum wage, they blocked the House from even voting on the matter.